

REMARKS:

1) Referring to item 10) of the Office Action Summary, please indicate the acceptance of the Drawings filed with the application on January 14, 2004.

2) The claims have been amended as follows.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of prior claim 12.

Dependent claims 6, 10, 11 and 13 have been amended for conformance in view of the amendment of claim 1.

Claim 12 has been canceled.

The other original claims are maintained without amendment.

New claims 18 to 20 have been added. New independent claim 18 is based on a combination of prior claims 1, 6, 7 and 8. New dependent claims 19 and 20 are respectively based on prior claims 9 and 10.

As the amendments merely involve claim combinations, no new matter has been introduced. Entry and consideration of the claim amendments are respectfully requested.

3) Referring to the middle of page 3 of the Office Action, the allowance of claims 14 to 17 is appreciated. These claims have been maintained without amendment, and should thus still stand allowed.

4) Further referring to the middle of page 3 of the Office Action, the indication of allowable subject matter in original claims 8

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to 10, 12 and 13 is appreciated. All remaining claims now include indicated allowable subject matter, as follows.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of original claim 12. Thus, claim 1 and its dependent claims 2 to 11 and 13 should now be allowable.

New independent claim 18 incorporates allowable subject matter from original claims 1, 6, 7 and 8. Thus, claim 18 and its dependent claims 19 and 20 should now be allowable.

- 5) Referring to pages 2 to 3 of the Office Action, the prior art rejections of claims 1 to 7 and 11 have been obviated by the present amendment. All of the remaining independent claims now incorporate allowable subject matter from prior non-rejected claims. Thus, the rejections cannot be maintained, and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.
- 6) Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application, including all present claims 1 to 11 and 13 to 20, are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosures:
Transmittal Cover Sheet
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Term Extension Request

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CERTIFICATE OF FAX TRANSMISSION:

I hereby certify that this correspondence with all indicated enclosures is being transmitted by telefax to (571) 273-8300 on the date indicated below, and is addressed to: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P. O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450.

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Name: Walter F. Fasse - Date: September 16, 2005

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